# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1881
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Monitoring of Drought
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has recently formulated any inter-ministerial scheme to tackle the drought in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government in cooperation with States during the last two years to tackle recurrent problem of drought in the country;

(c) whether the Government has been working in coordination with other ministries such as Rural Development to fight drought, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has put state-of-art infrastructure in place including monitoring through satellite systems for synoptic and wide-area coverage of the monitoring drought; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken by the Government for monitoring of drought/mitigation the effect of drought in the country?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

???? ??? ????? ?????? ???????? ??? ????? ?????? (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) to (c): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW) has established Crisis Management Group on drought comprising of members of Line Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government headed by the Central Drought Relief Commissioner to review the drought situation.

State Governments are primarily responsible for taking necessary relief in the wake of natural calamities and are empowered to initiate immediate relief measures to address the situation arising out of drought. Government of India supplements the efforts of state Governments with financial assistance. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from State Government in accordance with established procedure, keeping in view items and norms in vogue for assistance.
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Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare through ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad has prepared detailed crop Contingency Plans for 619 districts. States have been advised for preparing, updating, and fine-tuning Contingency Plans for each district in consultation with CRIDA-ICAR and the State Agriculture Universities and to prepare location specific remedial measures based on these contingency plans in the event of late arrival of Monsoon, long dry spells, scanty rainfall, drought conditions, tying up availability of seeds and other inputs for implementing the Contingency Plans.

Availability of Seeds etc. is being monitored and reviewed on a regular basis in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) meeting being held in the Department. Weekly video conference with States is also being held to get first-hand information about States' preparedness and to advise States appropriately whenever needed.

To mitigate the adverse impact of drought, State Governments are advised to initiate adverse remedial action e.g. constructing water harvesting structures under MGNREGA and other such schemes, promoting agronomic practices for moisture conservation, promoting cultivation of less water consuming crops and restoring irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals, energizing tube-wells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps, to carry out periodic assessment of preparation for kharif crops, particularly contingency crops and also investment made in water conservation structure under various schemes like Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWWP) to verify their utility in harvesting the rainfall

States have been advised to keep aside about 5 to 10% of fund allocated under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for undertaking appropriate interventions, if the situation so warrants, to minimize the advance impact of an aberrant monsoon on the agriculture sector. The Central Government implements Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) / Central Sector (CS) Schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), the Rainfed Area Development Programme (RAD), National Rural Drinking Water

Programme (NRDWP), etc. which contribute towards drought proofing . Twenty five percent of total outlay for all CSS Schemes (except for schemes, which emanate from a legislation, e.g.,(MGNREGA), can be used as flexi funds to enable mitigation/ restoration activities in cases of natural calamities.

Kisan Call Centres (KCC) has been launched with the basic aim to provide information to farming community through toll free number on all seven days a week.

m Kisan Portal subsumes all mobile based initiatives in the field of agriculture and allied sector. Officers, Scientists and Experts from all organisations and Department of the Government of India and State Governments {including State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Agro- Meteorological Field Units (AMFUs) } are using this Portal for disseminating information ( giving topical & seasonal advisories and providing services through SMSs to farmers in their local languages) on various agricultural activities to registered farmers.

The Department of Land Resources (DoLR) is currently implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States (except Goa) covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands which includes drought prone areas of the country. The activities being undertaken inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting" nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for asset less persons etc.

(d) & (e): National Agricultural Drought Assessment and Monitoring System (NADAMS) project, developed by National Remote Sensing Centre, provides near real-time information on

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prevalence, severity level and persistence of agricultural drought at state/ district/sub-district level. NADAMS project is being handled by Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare. Currently, it covers 14 states of India, which are predominantly agriculture based and prone to drought situation (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh). MNCFC is providing fortnightly and monthly drought assessment reports (June to October) to concerned states and national level government agencies.

The Control Room of the DAC & FW collects information on rainfall, reservoir position & sowing status etc. to monitor drought situation and liaises with the Central Ministries/Department and the States. In case of severe drought situation in the country, the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary also reviews the situation and takes necessary decisions to mitigate the drought situation.

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